

1659E

Y811 Columbia University
in the City of New York

LIBRARY



THE SELIGMAN LIBRARY OF ECONOMICS

PURCHASED BY THE UNIVERSITY

1929

Edmund R. H.

TO THE
SUPREAM AUTHORITY
THE
Parliament
OF
ENGLAND, &c.

The Humble Petition of Tho. Violet Goldsmith.

Humbly Sheweth,



That your Petitioner^e having presented in writing the ensuing Petition against several false Coyners, to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Mr. Recorder, and Court of Aldermen, Friday the 13. of January 1659. the first day that the Sessions began, which Petition his Lordship, Mr. Recorder, and some other Aldermen on the Bench read privately to themselves, your Petitioner expecting his Lordships and Mr. Recorders Answers, and the Courts directions in the businesse, how your Petitioner should proceed for the best advantage of the Commonwealth, and for the bringing the offenders to justice, your Petitioner having attended all Friday about this businesse, at the rising of the Court on Friday night, your Petitioner prayed the Lord Mayor, and Mr. Recorder, to appoint when your petitioner should know and have an Answer to his petition, and the Courts directions how he should prosecute this businesse; your petitioner being required by Mr. *Thomas Chaloner*, and Mr. *Istias Barnards*, and others of the Council of State, to assist in the behalf of the Commonwealth in this businesse, for the bringing to Justice the false Coyners.

A

Where-

Whereupon the Lord Mayor and Mr. Recorder ordered your Petitioner to attend the next day, (being Satterday January the 14.) the Court at seven a Clock in the morning, and then your petitioner should know the pleasure of the Court; your petitioner attended the Court all day but dinner time, till almost foure of the Clock; and then your petitioner seeing Mr. *Justice Bloomer* in the Court, he called unto him, and desired him that your petitioner might have Copies of all the Examinations and Depositions against the false Coyners of ourlandish money, and all other Witnesses touching that businesse; Mr. *Justice Bloomer* replied, he had put them into the Court already, and I must ask the Court of Sessions for them.

Thereupon your Petitioner acquainted the Court, that he had made the President and Council of State acquainted, with what a nest of Vipers, false Coyners, he had found out, and that ten Witnesses had sworn, that *Richard Pight*, Clerk of the Coyning Irons in the Mint, had contrary to his Trust, and the duty of his place, countevanced, abetted and assisted, and bin privy to the counterfeiting of great quantities of *Euden* dollars, Dutch shillings, Stivers, Spanish money, and other forreign Coines in the City of London, which discovery the Councel took for a great service.

That Mr. *Iosias Barners*, Mr. *Tho. Chaloner*, and several others of the Council of State, had required your Petitioner to assist in the behalf of the Commonwealth, and prosecute this businesse; and that when your petitioners petition was read at the Council of State about a week ago, to desire them to send to Mr. *Justice Bloomer*, for to deliver into the Councel of State, the true Copies of the Depositions sworn against *Richard Pight*, some of the Council of State bid me attend the Court of Sessions, and demand Copies; and Mr. *Iosias Barners* said, It was not fit I should be at any charge, but to desire the Copies, as immediately for the service for the Commonwealth, which your petitioner moved to the Court;

Court, but they ordered Mr. *Leigh* to deliver me true Copies attested, of all the Depositions and Examinations against the false Coyners, and *Richard Pight*, which are delivered into the Court by Mr. *Justice Bloomer*, but the Court ordered, that your Petitioner should not have the Depositions and Examinations, if he did not pay the usual fees to Master-*Leigh*, whereupon your Petitioner gave Mr. *Leigh* satterday at night, 14. *Jan.* the sum of twenty shillings, in accompt for drawing the copies, five indictments, and to give me on Munday morning *Jan.* 16. all the depositions, and examinations brought into the Court by Mr. *Justice Bloomer* against the false coyners, that so your Petitioner might shew your Honours Mr. *Attorney General*, and the Council for the Commonwealth, what is proved upon Oath against *Richard Pight*, and these counterfeiters of money.

About foure of the clock the same day, there was several Inditements read against some of the counterfeiters of money, one against another, by consent of the counterfeiters, put in by consent of *Richard Pight*, *Ralph Hartford*, to defraud the State, by a faint and slack prosecution of the said *Richard Pight*, therefore your petitioner humbly prayed the Court, that he might have time to advise with the States Council at Law, touching the inditing all the offenders: And that in the mean time no prejudice should be done to the Commonwealth, by *Pights* prosecution against any of the offenders, which I have charged in my petition to have coyned forreign money, with *Pights* privity and consent.

Whereas the said *Pight* hath maliciously filled two Inditements against your petitioner, for Assault and Battery, thinking thereby to interrupt your petitioner from the vigorous prosecution of this Businesse; your petitioner humbly offered the Court to come presently to a trial with *Pight*, or when the Court pleased, for any thing could be objected

against your Petitioner, for what concerned his own particular.

But for the Commonwealths interest, I told the Court I could not proceed, till the Councel see what was proved.

May it please your Honours, I have above fourty witnesses to subpena in against *Pight*, and the false Coyners, your petitioner expects the Court of Sessions will not tie your petitioner to impossibilities, when he hath not yet had any of the Examinations and Depositions from Mr. *Leigh*, taken by Justice *Bloomer*, touching *Pight*, and the rest of the confederates; and the Witnesses that have sworn against *Pight* are above ten several persons, that *Pight* was privy, consenting and abetting to the coining of false moneys, your petitioner must have these Examinations out of Mr. *Leighs* hand, before the Councel for the Commonwealth can draw his Inditement.

Your Petitioners Humble Desire to the Lord Mayor and Master Recorder was, that he might have the Records aforesaid from Master *Leigh*, and afterwards time to acquaint your Honours, and the Council at Law for the State, of the whole matter of Fact, and what is sworn, and that in the mean time no prejudice might be done to the Commonwealth, by bringing any of the false Coyners to a Trial, till your Honours had seen what was proved against *Pight*, and given your directions how he should be proceeded against.

POSTSCRIPT,

May it please your Honours, Fran. Preston, Geo. Cheaty, Ral. Hartford, Godf. Cooley, Tob. Knowles, &c. as your Petitioner is credibly informed, are petitioning your Honours for their pardons, and they pray for an Act of Indemnity, for so much as they shall confesse, and then your Honours shall know the whole truth of this businesse. Your Petitioner humbly prays your Honours to see what they have already sworn before they be pardoned, and your Petitioner will attend you with the Copey of the Record, as soone as he can get it out of the Sessions. Your Petitioner according to his request, was tryed concerning his Assault and Battery, and by the Jury found not guilty, and the Court did leave your Petitioner to be free, to take his remedy at Law against Rich. *Pight* for dispersing of his scandalous Petitions in the Court against your Petitioner, and stopped all Indictments against the false coyners, as your Petitioner desired. Till a Lord chief Justice, and the Council at Law for the Commonwealth, was appointed by your Honours, and your Petitioner was ordered by the Court, to proceed against all false coyners according to their directions,

Jan. 16th. 1659.

(and your Petitioner shall pray, &c)

To the Right Honourable the

L O R D M A Y O R

Mr. Recorder, and the rest of the Justices for
the Peace for *London*, and *Middlesex*,

The Humble Petition of Thomas Violet Goldsmith.

Sheweth,



Hat your Petitioner having lately discovered, that *Francis Preston*, *George Cheaty*, *Ralph Hartford*, *Godfrey Cooley*, *John Gerrell*, *Tobias Knowles*, and several others, Coyners, Casters, and Stampers of counterfeit silver, dollars, Spanish Coynes, Dutch shillings, Stivers, and other foreign Princes Coynes; That they under colour of coining and making of farthings of Copper and Brasse, have counterfeited by Mills and Engines, and by other tools, in and about *London*, Silver moneys as aforesaid, being contrary to the Lawes and Statutes of this Nation, and most pernicious and destructive to Trade, and mischievous to every individual person of this Commonwealth; these wicked practices causing many times many innocent persons, who have bin cozened by receiving the said counterfeit money for good money, to come into great danger of their lives, both in *England*, *Dunkirk* and *Ireland*.

And all these aforesaid persons, and their traiterous actions, have bin for a long time countenanc't, supported, cherished, and warranted by one *Richard Pight*: Clerk and Keeper of the Coining Irons in the Mint, in the Tower of *London*, who contrary to the Trust and Duty of his place, hath confederated with all the aforesaid false Coyners, when he ought

to have apprehended the aforesaid persons, having alwayes Warrants Dormant, and Authority from the Council of State, and Lord Chief Iustice so to do; the said *Richard Pight*, being for this nine years intrusted in an especial manner from the State, to finde out these offences and offenders, whose villany and breach of Trust hath filled *England, Ireland, and Dunkirk*, with brasse money, to the dishonour of the Nation, to have brasse money cried about the streets, as it is at this day.

All these offences being proved against the said *Richard Pight*, and confessed upon Oath before Mr. Iustice *Bloomer*, by ten severall persons, that he warranted and authorized the counterfeiting of these moneys as aforesaid, since this your Petitioners discovery, the said *Richard Pight* hath left no stone unturned, nor waies unattempted, to hinder your Petitioners prosecution of this businesse, as is most evident by his actions, and by the said *Richard Pights* scandalous Petition lately in print to the Parliament against your Petitioner, wherein he doth most falsely and maliciously blast your Petitioners real services done for the preservation of this Nation, which if his wicked designe had taken effect, would have bin to your Petitioners damage above sixteen thousand pounds; but many of this Councel of State have ordered your Petitioner to indite the said *Pight*: And the Speaker of this Parliament took away lately his Warrant which he had formerly given him to apprehend false Coyners, and committed the said *Rich. Pight* till he gave good Bayle, and that night Iustice *Bloomer* made *Richard Pights* *Mittimus*, and sent him to Newgate for to answer the Law.

The sum of money which is certified to the Parliament, and late Lord Protectors, *Oliver* and *Richard*, that the State and Commonwealth owed your Petitioner, is eleven thousand pounds, due to your Petitioner, since *Decemb. 1652*. And this I have certified under the hands of the Honourable Sir *James Harrington*, Sir *Geo. Fleetwood*, Sir *Iho. Vyner*, Sir *Iohn Barkstead*

Barkstead, the Lord *Bradshaw*, *Maurice Thomson*, Serjeant *Dendy*, Serjeant *Middleton*, *Isaac Dorislaus*, *Francis Bacon* Master of the Request, *Gabriel Beck*, Capt. *Iohn Lymbury* Esquires, and many other Honourable Hands, the Originals I am readie to produce to your Honours, if required: These Honourable Gentlemen were appointed Commissioners by the late Protectors *Oliver* and *Richard*, to certifie the true state of your Petitioners Case, as more fully will appear, by the Book herewith humbly presented to your good Lordship and the Bench.

May it please your Honours, Places of such trust in the Mint, as this of *Richard Pights* is, your Petitioner humbly say ought not to be put into the hands of needy, and necessitous, and unskillfull persons; this *Pight* being a Botcher, or Country Taylor, and one that can neither write nor read hardly to make his name, nor never brought up in the Mint business. May it please your Honours, for that your Petitioners prosecuting of the said *Pight*, hath not bin, nor shall be out of any bitterness, or malice, but out of his duty to save himself from the penalty of the Law, which your Petitioner might be trappand into, if he should conceale *Richard Pights* traitorous actions. neither is this prosecution out of any expectation of profit, or succession of the said *Pights* place, which is really and truly belonging to a worthy, and experienced Gentleman in that Office, one Mr. *Justice Swallow*, a man wel known to the Bench, and your Petitioner bears a better mind then to execute another mans Office, he would not except of it, should the State give it him.

And whereas the Council of State hath received severall Letters from *Dunkerk, Ireland*, wherein they heavily complayn of the great losses and abuses put on them, by counterfeit moneys made in *London*, the truth wherof all people that come from those parts do affirme, that there is in Prison now at this day, at *Dunkerk* one *Walker* and a woman that came for *Dunkerk*, that brought money from *London*, from these confederates,

derates; or some of them made at *London*, and transported and uttered the said false coynes in *Dunkirk*, by the hands of *Walker*, *Flewellyn*, and the foresaid woman, and the said *Flewellyn* was lodged in little Britain in *London*, at the Sugar-loafs by *Ralph Hartford*, or some of the confederates, who was lately taken in *Flanders*, and there boyled in Oyle, for uttering, and paying great sums of the said foreign coyns, which was made in *London* by the aforesaid confederates, or some of them.

Your Petitioners humble prayer is, that your Petitioner be ordered by this Court to attend the Council of State, and to pray that order may be forthwith sent, for the bringing up the aforesaid two Prisoners from *Dunkirk*, to discover this confederacy, and that so much of the Letters to the Council of State as concerns the discovery of these false coynerers in *London*, with the quantities of the counterfeit money, and the severall sorts of Princes coynes, that the Council of States Letters speak hath bin uttered by these confederates in *Ireland* or *Dunkirk*, may be certified to this Court from the Council of State, if they be pleased to think it fit for the service of the Common-wealth, and discovery of these offences, and that the Council at Law for the Common-wealth may have all these papers and examinations touching these false coynerers, or true copies delivered to them, that so the offenders may be brought to Justice, as they shall think most advantageous for the service, and benefit of the Common-wealth; and that your Petitioner may have the good liking, and leave of this Court, to take his just remedy at Law against *Richard Pight*, for the scandalous Petition, and practises of the said *Richard Pight*, concerning your Petitioner.

(And he shall pray), &c.

Jan. 16.

An Order of Mr. Attorney and Mr. Solicitor General,
directed to several Justices of the peace for
London, and Middlesex, viz.



Whereas Mr. *Thomas Violet* hath lately Petitioned the Parliament, complaining that one *Richard Pight* of the Mint, and Clerk of the coyning Irons, hath contrary to his Trust, and Duty of his place, countenanced, abetted, and assisted, and bin private to the counterfeiting of great quantities of Dollers, *Dutch* shillings, Stivers, *Spanish* money, and other forreign Princes coynes, in the City of *London*. And whereas Mr. *Justice Bloomer* hath the last Sessions for *London*, delivered unto Mr. *Leigh* Deputy Town-Clerke, several depositions, and examinations, of diverse Persons that have bin examined, and swornethat *Richard Pight* is guilty of all the aforesaid offences. And whereas Mr. *Violet* informes us, there are several Persons that have not as yet bin apprehended, that are guilty of coyning, and stamping of forreign Gold, and Silver, and makeing, and graving the coyning stamps, and uttering the same for good money. These are to desire Mr. Alderman *Vyner*, Mr. *Swallow*, Mr. *Bloomer*, Mr. *Hooker*, Mr. *Powell*, Mr. *Baldwin*, Justices of the Peace for *London*, and *Middlesex*, or any two of them, to send to Mr. *Leigh* the Deputy Town-Clerke, for Copies of all the examinations, and depositions, brought in to the Sessions; and Mr. *Thomas Violet* is to attend the said Justices, to informe them what he can say on the behalf of the Common-wealth. And they, or any two of them, are desired to certifie the whole matter of Fact, that they find proved; unto us with what expedition they can, it being for the speciall service of the Common-wealth.

Jan. 23. 1659.

Robert Reynolds.
William Ellis.

Mr. ATTURNEY }
 Mr. SOLICITOR } GENERAL.



YOU may be pleased to be certified that in pursuance of your desire unto us, amongst others of the Iustices assigned to keep the publique Peace in the County of *Middlesex*, and signified to us by your Letter of the 23. of *January* last, touching the complaint made by Mr. *Thomas Violet* against *Richard Pight* Clerke of the Coyning Irons. And others for coyning and countenancing the coyning of false and counterfeit forreign Coyns. We have several times mett together, and received divers informations upon Oath, and examinations touching the said matters, and it appeared unto us by the information of divers Persons taken upon Oath, and by confessions of some of the Persons that were Actors therein, that *Francis Preston*, *Georg Cheaty*, *Ralph Hartford*, an Officer of the *Customs House* in the Port of *London*, did about *August* last, strike off, and coyned thirty pounds weight of Sterling Silver, into Shillings, Sixpences, and Groats, for the Right Honourable, *Cecil Lord Baltymoer*, but of Stamps different from these our *English* coyne. And that *Tobias Knowles*, and his Servants did mix some copper with Silver, and coyned the same into such money as
 aforesaid

aforesaid, for the said Lord Baltymoer. And that the said Preston, Cheaty, and Hartford, did about the Month of May last, strike off, and coyned about sixty pounds weight of Copper, Brasse, and mixt mettles into Dutch Shillings, Dollers, and German coynes, for John Smith; Alias Lewelling, the said mettles of Copper and Brasse, being first melted, cast by and rounded and smothered by And that divers Modells for the casting of such forreign money as aforesaid, were Engraven by Daniel Chapel, at the instance and request of the said and that the said Lewellen, with divers others were apprehended at Dunkirk, and Brussells, for venting, and uttering the said false, and counterfeited forreign Princes coynes, which was made, and counterfeited at London, by the aforesaid Persons. And one Daniel Walker informeth upon Oath, that upon search made of the said Lewellens lodging in Dunkirk, as well English, as forreign false counterfeited coyne, to the value of about fifty pounds Sterling, had it been good money, was then, and there found. And that the said Lewellen, and the said Walker, being in company with the said Ralph Hartford, Cheaty, and Preston, at the Salutation Tavern in Holburne, the said gave the said Lewellen a false, and counterfeited English Shilling for a paterne; And offered that all the said Persons should make him, the said Lewellen what quantity he would of such English Shillings, or of English Gold, and the said Lewellen payd to the said Hartford the sum of twenty

twenty pounds for *Dutch* Shillings, and Spread Eagle Dollers, that is to say, for *Dutch* Shillings two pence farthing a peece, which had they bin good according to the true Standard, were worth about sevenpence halfe peny the peece. And for the said Spread Eagle Dollers, *Lewellen* paid *Hartford*, and all the rest of the aforesaid false Coyners, the sum of thirteen pence a peece, which had the Spread Eagle Dollers been good Silver according to the Standard, were worth above two shillings and sixpence *English* money. And one Mr. *Reynolds* under *Assayer* of the *Mint*, having made tryal of one of the said Dollers, counterfeited by the aforesaid Coyners, finds it upon assay to be worth in Silver but eight pence farthing.

And it also appeareth by the informations of many persons taken upon Oath, that the said *Richard Pight* contrary to his trust and duty of his place, gave often very great incouragement to the making and coining of such forreign coynes as aforesaid, and that he did allow therof, and gave his approbation therunto, telling some of the false Coyners, that made a scruple of doing the same, that they might lawfully do it, and that he would be their warrant for it, and that they might lawfully make, Coyne, Imprint, and Presse any Coyne, that was not the Coynes of the *Common-wealth* of *England*. And that the said *Richard Pight* was often times in the Houses of such Persons as made, and counterfeited the said forreign coynes; and the said *Richard Pight* knew that they did counterfeit

counterfeit the same, and that the said Pight did bid them go on therein, and make hay whilest the Sun shined. And several of the Informants say, that they beleeve such forreign Princes coynes as aforesaid, had not been made by the said Persons, if the said Richard Pight had not given them encouragement therein. And we have also been informed by some of the Officers of the Mint upon their Oaths, that when Mr. Swallow, and the predecessors of the said Richard Pight, were in the said Office of Clerke of the Coyning Irons, the said Coyning Irons were alwayes by them delivered in their own Persons, to the Workmen, belonging to the Mint, and received back again by themselves in their own Persons, by Indenture from the said Workmen, but that manner of delivering, and receiving the Coyning Irons sealed, ever since the said Richard Pight came into his Office in the Mint. And the said Richard Pight did often intrust the Servants of the Smith in the Tower, to carry Coyning Irons to the said Smiths Shoppe to be defaced, and the said Pight left them there before they were defaced, that he intrusted sometimes his Wife, and sometimes his Maid Servant, and his Boy, to deliver coyning Irons to the Workmen of the Mint, and that the said Richard Pight refused to suffer the Officers of the Mint, (though they had order from the Mr. worker of the Mint) to search and view the Coyning Irons in the Custody of the said Richard Pight, and the said Richard Pight spake for new Coyning Irons to be made, when he had rusting in his custody many dozen of new ones never used, of

the same sort that might have bin very usefull, and he caused Irons ready made to coyne money to be defaced, and made soft, and damned, although the said coining Irons was usefull, to the great charge, and prejudice of the Common-wealth.

And we have bin informed upon Oath by Mr. *Burch* one of the Gravers of the Mint, and by Mr. *Bratell* Sinker of the Mint, that they have seen many peeces of false, and counterfeit money, which they beleeve to have been stamped with the Coining Irons of the Mint.

And that when Mr. *Swallow* was discharged from the said Office of Clerke of the Coining Irons, and that the said *Pight* entred into the said Office, there was about three Tunns of old defaced Coining Irons there, which the said Mr. *Swallow* claimed as his fee, but the said *Pight* detained them from him, the said Mr. *Swallow* upon pretence that if they were new steeled, these Irons might be usefull for the service of the Common-wealth, but converted them to his own use, as is verily beleeved.

And it further appears to us, by informations taken upon Oath, that *Richard Pight* did above a year since, accuse one *Henry Cole* of the Crime of high Treason, for coining and counterfeiting the mony of this Common-wealth, and had him apprehended for the same, and convented before *Alderman Atkins*, and the said *Pight* having then no Persons in a readinesse to give information, or to testyfie against the said *Cole*, for the aforesaid Crime, the said *Cole* and *Pight* went then into

an Ale-House near the said *Aldermans* House, upon presence of *Pight* staying for witnesses, to give information of the said offence, where the said *Pight* in the presence of *John Ash*, and others, offered to discharge the said *Cole* of the said Crime of high Treason, and all other matters he had against *Cole*, if that *Cole* would seal a Bill of Sale (which the said *Pight* produced ready ingrossed in Parchment) of the said *Coles* intrest in a Pink or Vessel, caled the *Walter Dogg*, but upon the said *Coles* refusal so to do, the said *Cole* was then convented before the afore-said *Alderman*, and by him committed to Prison for the said Crime, and there hath bin no further prosecution against the said *Cole*, for the said Crime, to this day.

And lastly the said *Richard Pight* did acknowledg before us, his subscription of his own Name to a Passe produced unto us, and directed to all Officers both Military, and Civill, the said *Richard Pight* desiring them to suffer the Bearer therof Mr. *Bristow Harvy* to pass, and repasse without their disturbance, from the place of his aboard to the *Tower*, and elsewhere, the said *Bristow Harvy* being imployed in the service of the Commonwealth of *England*, which said *Bristow Harvy* was about that time suspected and questioned by the said *Pight* to be a coynor of false and counterfeit mony, as we are informed the said *Bristow Harvy* was : And shortly, after *Harvy* was convicted and attainted for high Treason, or some other Felony. All which we leave to your Consideration. And remaine,

Your Humble Servants.

Febr. 16. 1659,

Rich. Powell.

Febr. 19. 1659. Io. Baldwin.

Tho. Violets *Humble Petition to the Council of State is,*

That they would be pleased to peruse the Certificates of Alderman Vyners, and the other Justices of the Peace, concerning Richard Pight, and then they will find him a most lewd person.

TO discover this Wolf in a Sheep-skin, and these false Coyners, I have bin at this paines, charge and trouble, for the service of this Commonwealth, and spent above forty pounds, besides trouble, and refused large proffers of these false Coyners, which would have had this businesse smothered.

I have severall other Witnesses to examine against the false Coyners, poor Workmen and others, that when they have the Indempnitie for what they confesse, will discover the whole Nest of false Coyners in *London*. And had they had their Indempnity, as was promised by Mr. Secretary *Scot*, in *October* last, the State had known the whole businesse before this time.

I do humbly offer your Honours, to engage my estate and credit with your Honours. (And the Commonwealth oweth me sixteen thousand pounds, as I have proved by the Certificates of many honourable persons) That if the Act of Parliament be passed for discovery of false Coyners, and Transporters of Gold and Silver without Licence, as it is now drawn and approved on by the Lords Commissioners of the Great Seale, and by many of the Council of State, who were appointed a Committee for that businesse. Your Petitioner will in six moneths time cause to be paid in the Exchequer above sixty thousand pounds, for the Fines and Composition of the offenders, And will keep the Mint constantly on work. Now for the present enabling your Petitioner to do this service; That whereas your Petitioner hath severall bonds due to your Petitioner, to the value of about twenty five hundred pounds now in his own Custody, for many of the said Bonds, having compounded with the Committee of *Salop*, and paid *John Corbet* Esquire the sum of fourty pounds by an Order of the Protector *Oliver* and his Council. And your Petitioner humbly desires, that he may have an Order of Parliament or Council of State, to authorise and impower your Petitioner to put these Bonds in suit in any Court of Justice, and to recover the said money as lawfull as ever he might have done before any Sequestration 1643. touching the said *Thomas Violet*, for bringing up a Letter of Peace to the City of *London* from the late King in Jan. 1643.

And your Petitioner shall pray.

TO THE
PARLIAMENT OF ENGLAND,
AND
COUNCEL OF STATE.

The Humble Petition of Tho. Violet of London Goldsmith.

Humbly Sheweth,



THAT in *June* last your Petitioner acquainted several of your Honours, that he had certain information from a person that was imployed in the businesse, that several Merchants and others, did dayly coyne forreign Princes coynes, and your Petitioner humbly desired of several of your Honours that the person that brought your Petitioner the information, being a poor man that worked and made the same counterfeit mony for the Merchants, and other persons in *London*, might be indemnified for as much as he should confesse, and if he did not discover the whole truth of his knowledg of this businesse to suffer; therupon some of your Honours held it very just that the poor man should be indemnified, provided he made it forth by good prooffe, and discovered all his knowledg of this businesse..

And in *October* last, there were three other poor workmen that were imployed in the counterfeiting silver coynes, as they told your Petitioner, fearing at one time or another this businesse would be discovered by your Petitioner or some others, therupon they made your Petitioner acquainted that one of their Masters had made one of them being a Blacksmith, to enter into a Bond of a hundred pounds, that he should not make or work any coyning tooles but for his said Master, and that he

A

having

having wrought coyning tooles for some other false coyners, and it coming to his Masters knowledge, his Master had entred an Action against him, and had appointed Serjants to watch at his door every day to Arrest him, that he was faine to go into the Country to avoyd being Arrested, and there had spent all his money, and now returning back he was advised by a Friend to come to your Petitioner, to ask his advice, what he should do in the businesse, to keep himself from ruine.

Whereupon, your Petitioner asking the poor man who sent him to your Petitioner. he presently named the mans name that brought your Petitioner the first information in *June* against the false coyners; and the next day two other persons came together to your Petitioner, who all of them desired your Petitioner to shew them what they should do to get out of the danger of the Law, they being poor workmen, and all four of them upon your Petitioners best inquiry since of them, not worth an hundred pounds, whereupon your Petitioner the next day being about the 15. *October* last carried, all the aforesaid persons up to Mr. Secretary *Scot* at Whitehall, where two of them were admitted into his presence, and your Petitioner delivered Mr. *Scot* a paper of their humble desires, viz.

That was, that they being poor Tradesmen, a Blacksmith, a Founder, a Goldwyer drawer, and a farthing maker, had been drawn in to make and coyne forreign Princes coyns for several persons in and about *London*, and that for themselves they were but payd as day labourers, and could have gotten as much by the work of their calling honestly, they not knowing the danger of the Law for counterfeiting forreign coyns, that to redceme themselves from the danger of the Law, if they could be indemnified for what they should confesse, they humbly offered to Mr. Secretary *Scot*, they would discover the whole truth of their work-masters, and for what persons they coyned the said counterfeit money.

Whereupon Mr. Secretary *Scot* in the presence of his Son, and your Petitioner at White Hall, told them in your Petitioners hearing the day aforesaid, that it was never too late to repent, that they would do the Common-wealth a great service in discovering the principal offenders, and asking

asking your Petitioner what quality these men were of, your Petitioner told him that they were all poor men, tradesmen as aforesaid, but if he pleased to get them an Order of Parliament for their Indempnity, they had told your Petitioner, that they could and would discover all their Workmasters and Merchants, that bought these counterfeited coynes to transport beyond seas, which were rich men in *London*. Thereupon Mr. *Scot* said, he would use his endeavour to get an Order in the House for their Pardons and Indempnity, which should extend only so far as they confessed, and no farther, and that if at any time afterwards, that it were proved they had not discovered the whole truth of all Persons they knew had counterfeited money, that they should have no benefit of their pardons, but every person so offending to be lyable to the Law, which they humbly accepted of, and said, upon the Parliaments order they would be ready to do this service.

Some few days after this *John Lambert, Esq;* put a force upon the Parliament, whereupon shortly after, all the aforesaid persons coming to your Petitioner, your Petitioner asking them who was their workmasters, and the Merchants they wrought for, they all told your Petitioner that should fully be known when they had their indempnity.

But they said all of them, that they, and their workmasters, and some Merchants, and others, before ever that they coyned any of this counterfeited forreign mony, had the privy, consent, and approbation of one *Rich. Pight* Clerk of the coyning Irons in the *Tower*; who both approved, allowed, and warranted the same might be done without any lett, or molestation from him, using this as an argument for their security, to encourage them to go on, that the State employed no persons to seek after false coyners but himself, and he would never discover them; and bid them make Hay while the Sun shines; this is sworne by many witnesses taken upon Oath, by Mr. *Powell*, Mr. *Bloomer*, Mr. *Baldwine*, Justices of the Peace for *Middlesex*, and by them certified up to Mr. Attorney, and Mr. Solicitor General, 19. Feb. 1659.

Your Honours will see it certified upon Oath, that *Rich. Pight* hath contrary to his trust, and duty of his place, for his private profit, defaced new coyning Irons, to the great

damage of the State, and he hath left the coyning Irons loosely abroad at a Smiths before they were defaced; that he had let his Wife, and his Maid, have the keeping, delivery, and receiving of the coyning Irons, which are crimes of the highest nature, for they are the Seals of the Commonwealth, and ought as carefully to be locked up, delivered, and received by Indenture, and to be as watchfully handed between the monyers, and the Clerk of the coyning Irons, as the great Seal of *England*, the not doing therot, according to former custome; your Honours will see the effect,) which is the only cause that we have dayly brasse money cryed in the Streets of *London*, all men are cozened in their payments throughout *England*, to the great scandal of the Government of this Nation, and the Gravers of the Mint that cut the coyning Irons, have sworn that great quantities of the counterfeit money that is sold about Streets, is coyned with the coyning Irons of the Mint, and they being all Artists and Workmen, Gravers for the coyning Irons, can know their own work, from any counterfeit Stamps.

May it please your Honours, when your Petitioner was informed in *October* last, that *Richard Pight* confederated with these false coyner, and gave them protection, and license to coyn forreign mony, and when your Petitioner was acquainted by some of the Officers of the Mint, that they beleived *Pight* had delivered out the coyning Irons of the *Tower* to these false coyner, to coyne mony, and had left the coyning Irons before they were defaced, loosely up and down at a Smiths in the Mint, and had trusted his Maid, and his Wife to deliver out, and take in from the Moniers these coyning Irons contrary to all former customes, to the prejudice of the Nation, and had cozened the State, in damming, breaking, and defacing the States good new Irons before ever they were wrought, for his own particular profit, and private gaine, to get the Iron, being usuall fees, and of a small value to the workmanship of those coyning Stamps, to cozen the Commonwealth so basely of their good coyning Irons.

Your Petitioner told *Dr. Gurden* at his house, that in honesty, policy, and honour, as he was Master, and worker of the Mint, these abuses did highly concern him to acquaint the

the State, and Parliament, to prosecute the said *Pight* at the Sessions to bring him to Justice, for if he should conceale it, I did conceive as he was qualified it might bring him into a premunire, *Dr. Gardin* being in your Petitioners place, of Mr. and worker of the Mint, for that Office your Petitioner had a Commission from the late King Charles to execute it, which Commission was sealed, and taken from your Petitioner, 1643. for your Petitioner bringing up to the City of *London* a Letter from the late King for Peace, and your Petitioner committed four years to the Tower of *London*, and your petitioners Estate in Lands, and Houses, offices and Bonds, taken away from him to his damage at this day twenty thousand pounds, as your petitioner hath made it appear, before ever any Law, Order, or Ordinance of Parliament was made, to forbid your petitioner or any other, to bring up a Letter of peace to *London*.

As I have often printed, and have bin more often promised the full restoration of my Estate, either in Offices, or Lands, both by the late *Protectors*, many Members of this Parliament, (but as yet for all my many great services to redeem that error if it were an error) your Petitioner could never receive penny satisfaction, but hath dayly bin delayed with several promises, references, and reports, troubling many honourable persons, to certifie my debt several times, when the debt the State owes me is proved as clear as the Sun at noon day, and some of you have certified under your hands, that could your Petitioner have had but common Justice, and that men would do as they would be done unto, your Petitioner could not be many days without his money, and an honourable reward for his great service, so happy and successfully performed.

Your Petition at one time caused two hundred seventy eight thousand pounds to be saved to the State, and coyned in the Tower, in *De. 1652.* at that instant of time *Van Trump* lay in the *Downs*, and would have cheated the nation of all that Treasure, by the help of the *Spanish* Embassador, and some Merchants, had not your Petitioner discovered the fraud, by the confession of the passengers, and by the original Commission under the great Seal of *Holland*, remaining this day in the Admiralty; this great Treasure had bin lost. It is true several *Spaniards* and *Hamburgers* had just right to some of this silver, and your Petition-

oner did several times petition the Council, and the Protector *Oliver*, that the Spanish Merchants that were just Claimers might have their Silver restored them according to justice and equity: (but Doctor *Walker* Advocate for the Commonwealth opposed it, and made such a prudential Certificate, to please the Protector *Oliver* and his Counsel, that the Spanish Merchants, Claimers in Town, lost all their money, and your Petitioner soundly chidden by the Protector and his Counsel,) for but offering to petition that the Spanish Merchants might have their part of the silver, which justly belonged to them. This Original Certificate your petitioner hath ready to produce, to shew that your petitioner only stayed the Dutch silver when we were at wars with them, and any person who reads Doctor *Walkers* Certificate touching this businesse, will be satisfied concerning the truth of it. The summe of money your Petitioner got the State at one time, being two hundred seventy eight thousand pounds in silver, as aforesaid, the Parliament referred the Examination of this businesse to the Council of State, the Council of State referred it to the Iudges of the Admiralty, to proceed according to Law, and the very self-same houre that the Iudges were clearing the silver, your Petitioner came into the Court, and protested against the Iudges clearing of it, and so saved the silver, which was the principal cause of breaking the Dutch; your petitioner spending in that service above fifteen hundred pounds, venturing his life, and refusing of the Claimers ten thousand pounds, which the Claimers several times would have paid your petitioner, to have betrayed his trust reposed in him by the State, to have let this silver go; for which faithful service, the Council of State, in the name of the Commonwealth, did faithfully promise to pay your petitioner the summe of eleven thousand pounds, out of the money that was coyned of the aforesaid silver: And this is the Truth Attested under the hands of the Honourable Sir *James Harrington*, Sir *George Fleetwood*, the Lord *Bradshaw*, Alderman *Vyner*, Alderman *Barkstead*, *Gabriel Beck*, *Francis Bacon* Master of the Requests, *Maurice Thomson* Governour of the East-India Company, and several other honourable persons, who were all appointed at several times to be Commissioners, by the late Lord
Pro-

Protectors *Oliver* and *Richard*, to examine, state and certifie your Petitioners Case and Debt, first to the Protector *Oliver*, and afterwards to *Richard* Protector, and upon all their Reports signed under their Hands, of the greatnesse of your petitioners service done for this Commonwealth, both the Protector *Oliver* and *Richard*, ordered their Counsel to give your petitioner full satisfaction according to justice and equity.

Your petitioners humble Prayer is, that the Draught of an Act of Parliament, approved on by the Lords Commissioners of the Grear Seal, and also by some of your Honours, being a Committee appointed to report the same to the Counsel. If this Act passe the House as it is now drawn, your petitioner thereby will discover the principal false Coyners in *England*, and the Transporters of Gold and Silver, and set your Mint constantly on work, which will be a great service to the Nation. at this conjuncture of time.

Your Petitioners Humble Prayer is, that all Examinations sent from Dunkirk and Ireland touching false Coyners, to the Counsel of State in August last, may be found out and sent to Mr. Attorney General, or Mr. Solicitor General, and all Examinations and Depositions taken by Mr. Powell, Mr. Baldwin, and Mr. Bloomer, and touching false Coyners, and remaining in the Custody of Mr. Lewis, Clerk of the peace for Middlesex, true Copies thereof Attested under his Hand, may be forthwith sent up to the Attorney and Solicitor General, that so upon their perusal of the same, they may proceed against such false Coyners as they shall think fit. for the best advantage of the Commonwealth, And that your petitioner, who first discovered this business, and have him at great charge in the Prosecution, may be ordered by the Council of State to assist in behalf of the Commonwealth, to bring the offenders to justice, And from time to time to attend Mr. Attorney and Mr. Solicitor General, to offer what he hath to say, in behalf of the Commonwealth, touching this business, and that your Honours would take some speedy Order for the securing the person of Ri. Pight, and Inventoring the Coyning Irons in the Tower. And for the true performance of that service, your petitioner humbly recommends your Honours to the annexed Certificate of Alderman Vyner.

And your petitioner will ever pray, &c?

Mr. Alderman Vyners CERTIFICATE concerning
Rich. Pight.

WHereas Mr. Tho. Violet hath desired me to certifie my knowledge, concerning a Petition printed by Rich. Pight, Clerk of the Coyning-Irons in the Mint, concerning Mr. Tho. Violet, in these words.

Whereas Tho. Violet hath charged some speeches at the Sessions-house upon Alderman Vyner against your Petitioner, the said Alderman is ready to certifie the contrary thereof, when he shall be required thereunto, and to certifie your Petitioners faithfulness in the discharge of his Trust, which hath bin reposed in him from time to time.

I do well remember, that Mr. Violet charged the abovesaid Richard Pight at the Sessions about two moneths since, that the said Pight was consenting, and privie, and gave encouragement to several evil-disposed persons in and about London, so coyne and counterfeit forreign Princes coyne, contrary to the Law and Duty of his place, Thereupon I did reply, if Pight were such a person, and that Mr. Violet could prove what he haad said, the said Pight might do a great deal of mischief, by reason of keeping the Coyning Irons, I do attest I did say the same words, or words to that effect to Mr. Alderman Foot and some others; but I am, and ever was so far from giving Rich. Pight a Certificate for his faithfulness and discharge of his Trust in the Mint, that I never held him to be a person fit or capable of that Employment: And I do certifie, that for above thirty yeares that place was faithfully managed and executed by one Mr. Swallow, a person of my owne knowledge of great Integrity, and fit for that place. And I do hereby Attest and Certifie, that what Richard Pight hath printed in his Petition to the Parliament, that I should say, touching or concerning Mr. Violet, is utterly untrue and false. Given under my Hand this 16. of Febr. 1659.

THO. VYNER.



